

HB 173 – AS INTRODUCED

2015 SESSION

15-0845
03/10

HOUSE BILL **173**

AN ACT relative to instructions on ballots.

SPONSORS: Rep. Williams, Hills 4

COMMITTEE: Election Law

ANALYSIS

This bill modifies instructions on ballots regarding how many persons are to be voted for.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Fifteen

AN ACT relative to instructions on ballots.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 General Election Ballot. Amend RSA 656:6 to read as follows:

2 656:6 Designation of Office. Immediately to the left of the set of party columns shall be an
3 offices column which shall list the offices, each preceded by the word “For,” for which the candidates
4 whose names are listed in the party columns have been nominated, as in “For Governor.” Below each
5 such phrase shall be printed in small but easily legible letters, **in bold text**, “**You may** vote for [~~not~~
6 ~~more than~~] ____ (here insert a number designating how many persons are to be voted for).”

7 2 Instructions to Voters. Amend RSA 659:17 to read as follows:

8 659:17 Marking the Ballot; Instructions to Voters. The secretary of state shall provide on the
9 top of the general election ballot the following voting instructions. The secretary of state is
10 authorized to replace the phrase “Make the appropriate mark” with an appropriate description and
11 example of the mark to be made for the type of ballot in use, such as “Make a cross (X) in the box,”
12 “Completely fill in the oval,” or “Complete the arrow”:

13 1) To Vote

14 Make the appropriate mark to the right of your choice. For each office vote for not more than the
15 number of candidates stated in the sentence: “**You may** vote for [~~not more than~~] _____. If you vote for
16 more than the stated number of candidates, your vote for that office will not be counted.

17 2) To Vote by Write-In

18 To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write in the name of the person in
19 the “write-in” space. Make the appropriate mark to the right of your choice.

20 3 Town Ballots. Amend RSA 669:23 to read as follows:

21 669:23 Preparation of Voting Materials. The town clerk shall prepare the official ballots for the
22 town and shall arrange the names of candidates upon said ballots in parallel columns. Immediately
23 above the names of each block of candidates shall be printed the title of the office for which they are
24 candidates, such as “For Selectman.” Below the title of each office shall be printed in small but
25 easily legible type, **in bold text**, the words “**You may** vote for [~~not more than~~] (here insert a number
26 designating how many persons are to be voted for).” Directly to the right of the name of each
27 candidate there shall be a square. Whenever there are 2 or more candidates for the same office the
28 names shall be printed upon the ballot in the alphabetical order of their surnames according to the
29 alphabetization procedure established in RSA 656:5-a. Following the names printed on the ballot
30 under the title of each office, there shall be as many blank lines as there are persons to be elected to
31 that office.

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1 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.